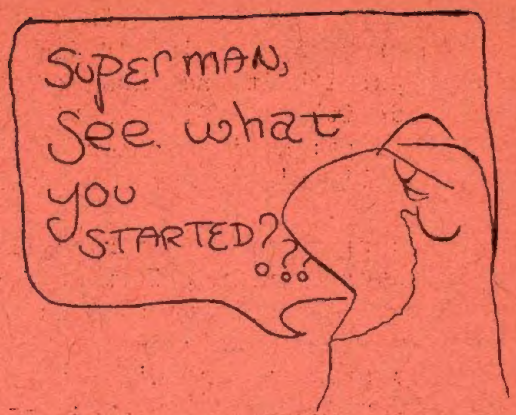
NEWFA NGLES



#26, September 1969. Monthly from Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd., Mentor, O. 44060, at 10¢ per copy, free copies for usable news items. A few back issues (11 15 16 18 23-25) are available at 10¢ each. Heading cartoon by James Shull. Circulation: 218

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COMICS NEWS GATHERED AT A SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION DEPARTMENT: There may be another editorial and/or management shakeup at DC soon. Most of the DC comics will switch to two stories per issue soon -- a factor here is that Detective Comics is outselling Batman, indicating to DC reader preference for shorter stories. Batman is downright wobbly, in fact, though Detective is doing well.

There will be no more than three more issues of Green Lantern and Justice League of America, barring a dramatic increase in sales. If the decision were reached today to save those books, they'd still skip an issue while getting started up again. ## Nightmaster definitely is dead; the last issue of Bat Lash is on sale now. At least two Bat Lash endings were rewritten because the Code couldn't permit him to get away with crime. ## Batman is going back to his 1939 image in Detective very soon, via the talents of Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams.

Deadman will be guest-appearing in Aquaman for a while. Surprisingly, Aquaman is selling very well in spite of losing his TV show. All the Superman-family books are doing well. An apologist for DC told me (Don) that Flash is selling better than ever; I believe a lot of things, but not that. Anyway, Gil Kane is going to take over Flash artwork. ## Recall our mentioning the fall-through of plans to bring out a Matt Mason comic based on one of those dolls for boys? Well, it will appear as Glenn Merritt, Spaceman, with art by Murphy Anderson. ## A lot of reprints are coming up from DC; it's floundering time.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD LIVES! Mark Hanerfeld has found some typists (Len Wein, Marvin Wolfman) to do the donkeywork and he says an issue will appear late this month, giving the Alley awards and lots of news. Probably be a double issue, in fact. ## Mark appeared on a disastrously overcrowded panel with us, Wein, Wolfman, Mike Royer, Vaughn Bodé, Jeff Jones, Denny O'Neil, Larry Todd and Harlan Ellison at the 27th World Science Fiction Convention in St. Louis over Labor Day weekend.

A highlight of that convention was an art show by Bodé, Jones and Todd. A highlight of that art show was a display of collaborations by Bodé and Jones. The first of these to be published will be on Vampirella #4; it is gorgeous and there will be half-a-dozen more at least on the Warren magazines. ## Bodé wants to start a publishing company which will be aimed more at a more intelligent audience and will give lasting, sophisticated material to writers and artists.

Gothic Blimp Works, the highly successful underground comic newspaper, is about to go bankrupt. Apparently, they can't find anyone straight to handle the bookkeeping and office routine. There is a moral there for all of us. Ponder.

Can someone give me an address on Rich Hauser? He is interested in knowing how many fans would be willing to lay out about $5 for a privately-printed 40-page black&white oneshot magazine of Jim Steranko's Talon. If someone will send me his address, I'll publish it and those of us who would pay for such a book can write him and he just may do it. # Gil Kane is going to bring out a new magazine, and is buying stories to adapt; he is partners with Neal Adams, apparently. One story already bought is Harlan Ellison's "I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream."

Harlan wrote a story called "Rock God" around a Frank Frazetta cover for Jim Warren. (The story appears, in text form, in the second issue of Coven 13, a fantasy mag on sale now.) The story is to be illustrated by Neal Adams, but Harlan says it won't appear until Jim meets his price -- $500. He says Jim offered to raise the money by selling autographed copies of Harlan's latest book (The Beast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the World) for $1 over list price -- if Harlan would autograph 500 copies. Wanna rebut, Jim?

May as well mention the Hugo winners, since some of our boys made it. That is the SF fan award for best of the year. The winners: Best novel -- John Brunner's Stand on Zanzibar; best novella -- Robert Silverberg's "Nightwings"; best novelet -- Poul Anderson's "Sharing of the Flesh"; Best short story -- Harlan Ellison's "The Beast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the World"; best drama -- 2001: A Space Odyssey; best artist -- Jack Gaughan; best magazine -- The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction; best fanzine -- Science Fiction Review; best fan writer -- Harry Warner Jr; best fan artist -- Vaughn Bodé. Special awards were presented to Warner, to Murray Leinster and to the late Willy Ley. A Hugo was given Armstrong, Aldrin & Collins for "the best moon landing ever." Next year's convention will be held in Heidelberg, the year after will be in Boston. Incidentally, Harlan is now tied with Robert Heinlein for most Hugoes -- four each.

At the costume ball, grand prize went to Bruce Pelz. The prize for most humorous went to Rick Norwood as Charlie Brown. Norwood lived up to his costume by falling off the stage and tearing the movie screen. The hotel promptly demanded $250 to repair the screen and Harlan, within 10 minutes, raised over $400 from conventioneers. "Here's 250--lay it on those mothers," Harlan said. Runner-up most humorous was Steve Hammond as Superman. # A girl dressed as Vampirella attended the ball and Mike Royer was photographed with her, signing her shoulder (the photo may appear on a Creepy Fan Club page). Mike was unable to persuade her to let him draw a bat on her left breast, however. # The editors of NF may be dopicted in an upcoming Graveyard Examiner in Famous Monsters, along with a couple of our fans, Jim Warren and Forrest J Ackerman.

ATTENTION EC FANS: There is another authorized reprint of EC work which I didn't know about when I blasted unauthorized reprints last month. Bob Brosch (14845 Anne St., Allen Park, Mich. 48101) has Bill Gaines' permission to sell Best of Weird Science-Fantasy, which contains artwork by Al Williamson, Frank Frazetta and Angelo Torres. Cost is $3 by mail and well worth it. # Don't buy your EC Checklist from that Certain Dealer in NYC who is selling a pirated edition at $10. Send $5.25 to Joe Vucenic, 2028-A 45th St., Los Alamos, NM 87544. Joe is reprinting o/a Nov. 15, the original Fred Von Bernewitz checklist -- this is authorized.

Jack Gaughan, art editor of Galaxy and If, said he will use comic book artists but not comic book art in his books. # An hour of Harlan Ellison's time was auctioned off for $125. # Lin Carter's "Thongor" series will be adapted into comic book form by Marvel. Jeff Jones can too draw feet (he just isn't turned on by them) -- see Queen Cleopatra by Talbot Mundy, coming soon from Avon. Several people thereon have feet. Jeff has a second cover forthcoming from Web of Horror's original contract, then no more. Jeff is now working for Warren and if you work for Warren, you don't work for Web of Horror -- he feels that, after the work and expense he has gone to creating a market, he shouldn't be expected to encourage bandwagonjumpers. # Warren's mags are to drop reprints after the first of the year. # Steve Stiles will illustrate another Creepy story soon.

Fringe comics fan Lee Hoffman sold her award-winning western novel The Valdez Horses to an independent movie producer. The man who made Otley.

A dealer who wishes to remain anonymous tells us he thinks the market in old comics hit its peak in March of this year and that prices now are dropping. Our experiences at the con -- where we saw multiple copies of supposedly rare items going unsold at less than catalog prices -- would seem to bear this out. # Wayne Howard, Cleveland comics fan turned pro, will have work in Web of Horror (story by Nicolas Cuti) and some stories in the Marvel mystery-fantasy mags. # Ballantine will publish, in October, Fritz the Cat by R Crumb, containing three new stories. Format will be 9x12", paperbound; cost:$3.95. # Don Addis, who does the "Symbolic Sex" cartoon feature for Playboy, now has a daily syndicated panel called "Mini-Poster." # The Ridiculously Expensive Mad is on sale now at $9.95 from World Publishing. Contains a lot of stickers, records and covers, as well as other material from the magazine dating back to the comic book days. We'd tell you more about it if someone would send us a review copy. # The next paperback Mad book will be Hopping Mad -- the 41st Mad paperback.

Ed Aprill has now published 8 issues of Cartoonist Showcase at $5 each and featuring Al Williamson's & Archie Goodwin's Secret Agent X9, Russ Manning's Tarzan, and Peter O'Donnell's and Jim Holdaway's Modesty Blaise (the latter being one of the alltime great adventure strips -- and it proved much too strong for American newspaper editors). In addition to these fine strips, Ed plans to start running James Bond again, now that a new artist has taken over the strip. Now, if only he wouldn't crop the panels in Modesty so severely, we could give him a wholehearted recommendation; consider this a 5/8-hearted recommendation. ## David McDaniel is writing the ultimate "Man from UNCLE" book to terminate the series of Ace paperbacks -- The Final Affair, in which everyone is killed; Solo, Kuryakin and Waverley. There may be a few more books in the series before that appears, though. # There is a Batman Big Little Book (Batman in the Cheetah Affair) written by George S. Elrick.

One of the brass at DC recently began chewing out some of the editors for permitting delivery boys to sit around in the outer offices all day. It looks bad, he said, for those kids to be hanging around all the time. The editors were baffled, until Dick Giordano took a look at the delivery boys and announced: "Those aren't delivery boys; those are our writers!" (Understand the "delivery boys" in question were the youthful Denny O'Neil and Steve Skeates.)

Dick Lupoff, onetime Xero editor and co-editor of the forthcoming All in Color for a Dime book, narrowly escaped extinction a couple weeks ago. With his entire family in the car, Dick was doing 60 mph on the freeway when a tire blew. The car spun around, going 60 mph backward for a ways, then sideways, finally stopping on a shoulder very near a cliff. No injuries, except for the car, but a very close thing. Dick said the tire that blew was new and that he didn't even know tires blew out in this day and age.

Harlan Ellison (already mentioned a time or two this issue) has a book of collaborations with other sf writers (Partners in Wonder) coming out next year from Belmont; has accrued half-a-million words in stories for the two-volume Again, Dangerous Visions to be published by Doubleday next year; and has an omnibus collection of what he considers his best work -- stories, poems, essays -- coming forth early in 1970 from Mirage Press in a limited, numbered edition. Title is The Harlan Ellison Hornbook.

The editors of Newfangles are particularly interested in purchasing the following issues of (the real) Captain Marvel -- #31 33 36 40 61 66. # Our special thanks to Joe Sinnott for sending us a copy of the Comicon program booklet.

Joe Sarno clues us in on current men's humor magazines: Stare (Oct 69) has 6 pages of Air Hawk; Popular Cartoons (Oct 69) has 6 pages of Powerhouse Pepper by Basil Wolverton; Romp (Oct 69) has 6 pages of Mike Steel, Desert Rider. (Of course, Joe also says All in Color for a Dime is "by Rich Lupoff and Roy Thomas." Well, Roy does have a chapter in the book, but... For the record, the book is edited by Dick (not Rich) Lupoff and Don Thompson.) # Greg Bell says the youngest paid cartoonist now working is Chris Jackson, who works for the Kirkwood-Webster Advertiser, St. Louis, and gets $14 a month for four illustrated Bible verses. He is 9. # Bantam is reprinting Shadow pulp stories.

Your subscription expires with issue number 27.

The address for writing to if you'd be willing to spend $5 or so for a Talon book is Rich Hauser, 4519 N. Richmond, Chicago, Ill. 60625. Send no money now, just indicate interest in the project. # While in the process of giving addresses, Ed Aprill's is 5272 W. Liberty Rd., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103. Send him $5 each for Cartoonist Showcase #2-8, which are in print. The Modesty Blaise story in 7-9 is one of her best.

ORCHID FROM A READER: "It seems that moving to Ohio hasnt changed you essentia ly New York manner. Looking back over items that i thot would be good examples i find they really arnt so good but i always have been sensitive to tones of writing particularly in relation to the character of the writer and his emotions and frequently i dislike the insensitive tone used in some items. It comes across bordering on the mean ad arrogant ad is generally upleasant. While im not asking for the homey, simplistic tone of Bijo Whites Batmania, i think a more loving attitude to the scenr ad its creators culd be exercised in wrting about them."

Larry Mitchell suggests comparing the cover of Not Brand Echh 13 with the ad for it in Marvel Tales #20 -- specifically the "Be kind to a comic book fan" stamp. It's worth the trouble to dig them out for a look, particularly if you dig Code censorship.

Cleveland now has its own comics fan club, the Graphic Arts Society of Northeastern Ohio. For information, contact Tony Isabella, 11203 Peony, Cleveland 44111. # Our Fury poll ("Does anyone care whether Nick Fury is dead or not?") drew one response -- a mildly curious who would prefer that he stay dead. Strips have ended with the death of the hero before -- The Comet in comic books and Romulus of Rome in comic strips. # We have a rumor that John Severin has left Marvel and gone over to DC. Reported that he has done some work for Joe Kubert's war books a while back, but word we got then was that he didn't want to get tied down to any one comics company. ## Some issue of Phantom Stranger (5 or 6) will be done by Neal Adams. Tom Hegeman tells us Jim Steranko was offered the Batman newspaper strip and refused it. # You can get three free comic books with every $1 worth of school supplies at Thompson Drug in McLaughlin, S.D., reports Jon Carter. Hart Amos, who had drawn the Australian comic strip Devil Doone for 20 years, has retired, Gary Mason says. Besides Devil, (he did some 280 stories for Lion Junior) and artwork for the K.G. Murray magazines, he has done many covers. He probably will continue to do covers. # Janet Van Dyne is a WASP -- Dick Brown. # If you still haven't ordered Captain George's Comic World (see NF 25 for sub info), be advised that 15 is a portfolio of sexy drawings by Frank Frazetta. The first issue of Frazetta is out, finally, at $2 the copy, but we don't seem to have an address. You can order it from Ed Aprill, though, whose address appears above. # The Angel of X-Men is to get a new costume designed by Neal Adams as a result of his old costume being splattered from a fall from a cliff in which he is presumed dead for 5 pages, sez Doug Foley. Foley says also that Roy Thomas is considering writing a new syndicated strip if time is available. # Our report on the Zap fire was exaggerated. The fire destroyed some original art and some pages (not plates) to some new Snatch-type comics. The Rip-Off Press printed 10,000 copies of R. Crumb's Big Ass Comics before someone discovered the pages were out of order. So it goes on the underground comix scene, according to Art Scott. Order Squa Tront (a fine DC fanzine) from Jerry Weist, Kalmar Hall, Lindsborg, Kansas 67456 at 75¢ a copy. Why pay A Certain New York Dealer $8 a copy? Dan Fleming now has the same address as Jerry Weist.* # You can get Cavalcade of Old-Time Comics for $2 from Good Old Days, Box 412, Danvers, Mass. 01923 -- or from that Certain NY Dealer for $10. The choice is yours. You might want to sub to Good Old Days mag for $4 a year -- it's a nostalgia mag which usually includes a few pages of old Sunday comics in each issue. (*Except DF is in Carlton Hall...)

There is a 50¢ magazine (Timesize) of Harry Shorter's There Ought a Be a Law. # In Family Weekly (19 July) someone asked Mickey Spillane where he gets his ideas. "I depend on my own imagination. When I write a book, I plan the last scene first. Then I start at the beginning and work back to the end. This is the format I used in writing comic books, and it has always worked well for me." # Does Alter Ego live?